

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM USDEL GRENADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0057

C O N F I D E N T I A L GRENADA 00051

EXDIS

FOR S/S RUST DEMING FROM MARK DION

FROM USDEL OASGA

USOAS DEL 24

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OAS, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH PARAGUAYAN FONMIN NOGUES

1. PARTICIPANTS: US: THE SECRETARY, MR. HABIB, AMB. TODMAN, MRS. VAN REIGERSBURG (INTERPRETER), MS. JANET RUBEN, USOAS (NOTETAKER); PARAGUAY: FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES, AMB. MARIO LOPEZ ESCOBA, SENATOR CARLOS SALDIVAR. SUBJECT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. AFTER EXCHANGING COURTESIES, NOGUES THANKED THE US FOR SUPPORT IN ALL SPHERES, BUT ESPECIALLY FOR ECONOMIC AID FOR LAGRE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN PARAGUAY. LATER IN THE CONVERSATION HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PARAGUAY'S LOAN REQUEST IN THE IFIS AND TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GRENAD 00051 191833Z

3. WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPMENT, NOGUES REFERRED TO THE POLITICAL EVENTS IN PARAGUAY'S RECENT HISTORY WHICH IMPEDED ITS PROGRESS. HE STATED THAT UNDER STROESSNER PARAGUAYAN SOCIETY HAD FLOURISHED; THAT PARLIAMENT IT ALIVE AND WELL, WHILE FREE SPEECH AND CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE PERMITTED. HE SAID THAT ALL FREEDOMS ARE BORADLY RESPECTED, WITH A FEW RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED

FOR SECURITY REASONS.

4. AS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, NOGUES REITERATED THE IDEAS PUT FORTH IN HIS INTERVENTION AT THE INFORMAL DIALOGUES THAT AFTERNOON. HE SAID THAT PARAGUAY WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC). THEY ARE STILL CONSIDERING THE PROSPECT OF INVITING THE COMMISSION TO PARAGUAY, AND HE REMINDED THE SECRETARY THAT THIS IS A PREROGATIVE OF EACH COUNTRY. HE SAID REASSURINGLY THAT THE BEST WILL EXISTS TOWARD THE COMMISSION, BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONSULT PUBLIC OPINION AND THE PARTY BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION.

5. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED THE STRONG HOPE THAT PARAGUAY WOULD INVITE THE COMMISSION, NOTING THAT THIS WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE HEMISPHERE AND WOULD PROVIDE PARAGUAY AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE. THE SECRETARY ADDED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER THOUGHT PARAGUAY WOULD INVITE THE COMMISSION AND ASKED WHEN THE VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE.

6. IN RESPONSE, NOGUES PROMISED TO CONVEY THE SENSE OF THIS CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER AND SAID THAT HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE A DECISION SOON. HE SAID THA THE U.S. CAN COUNT ON PARAGUAY FOR COOPERATION IN PROMOTING FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN VALUES. NOT TO COOPERATE IN THE STRENGTHENING OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION WOULD BE SUICIDAL, HE SAID. HE PROMISED THAT PARAGUAY WOULD TAKE THE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GRENAD 00051 191833Z

US AND ASSURED THE SECRETARY THAT IN SAYING THIS, HE WAS SURE HE WAS INTERPRETING THE FEELINGS OF STROESSNER. THE SECRETARY SAID EH WOULD TELL PRESIDENT CARTER AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE PLEASED.
MCGEE

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